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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/077,933	02/20/2002	Fujihito Numano	04329.2736	7099

22852 7590 07/15/2005

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER  
LLP  
901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413

EXAMINER

VU, THANH T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2174

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/077,933

Applicant(s)

NUMANO, FUJIHITO

Examiner

Thanh T. Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 26-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 26-56 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

This communication is responsive to Amendment, filed 04/26/2005.

Claims 26-56 are pending in this application. Claims 55 and 56 were added.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 50-51 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mondshine et al. ("Mondshine", U.S. Pat. No. 6,252,511).

Per claim 50, Mondshine teaches an information apparatus comprising:

a body (fig. 1B; item B);

a main display which can be opened and closed relative to the body (figs. 1A and 1B);

a sub-display provided in the body, which is exposed regardless of an open/close state of the main display (fig. 1A and 1B; item 54);

selection means which selects a predetermined function, and display control means which displays information concerning the selected predetermined function on the sub-display (col. 3, lines 39-50).

Per claim 51, Mondshine teaches an information apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the display control means displays the information in one of a power-off state, a sleeping state and a main display off state (col. 2, lines 5-17).

Per claim 54, Mondshine teaches an information apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the selection means selects a CD reproducing function, and the display control means displays information concerning the CD ((col. 3, lines 25-50 and col. 4, lines 48-64)).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 26, 28, 30, 31, 39, 41-42, and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollon Jr. ("Hollon", U.S. Pat. No. 5, 768,164) and Mondshine et al. ("Mondshine", U.S. Pat. No. 6,252,511).

Per claim 26, Hollon teaches a portable information apparatus comprising:

a main display (fig. 1, display 20);

a sub-display provided independently of the main display and at a position where the sub-display is externally visible when the main display is in a closed position (fig. 2; display 39; col. 1, lines 44-49); and display control means (fig. 8, col. 3, lines 34-41).

Hollon does not teach detection means which detects a system abnormality of the portable information apparatus; displaying a message indicating a system abnormality on the sub-display when the system abnormality is detected by the detection means. However, Mondshine teaches detection means which detects a system abnormality of the portable information apparatus; displaying a message indicating a system abnormality on the sub-display

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when the system abnormality is detected by the detection means (figs 1A and 1B; sub-display 54; col. 2, lines 18-30). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include Mondshine's teaching in the invention of Hollon because it provides an improved functionality and ease of use in techniques for the users in displaying the condition of the portable apparatus.

Per claim 28, Mondshine teaches a portable information apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising: designation means which designates display modes of messages to be displayed on the sub-display, and wherein the display control means displays the message on the sub-display in accordance with the modes designated by the designation means (figs. 1A and 1B; col. 3, lines 25-50).

Per claim 30, Hollon teaches portable information apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising means for restoring a window shown on the sub-display to the window which was shown before the message was displayed, after the message has been displayed on the sub-display (col. 3, lines 34-40; the display changes in response to application software).

Per claim 31, Hollon teaches the information apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising display means which displays a setup window used to set at least one of a display time and contents of the message, and wherein the display control means displays the message based on a setup value set with the setup window on the display means (figs. 3 and 4; col. 3, lines 6-15).

Claims 39, and 41-42 are rejected under the same rationale as claims 26, 28, and 30 respectively.

Per claim 52, Mondshine teaches an information apparatus according to claim 50, but does not teach customizing means which customizes the number of application programs, and wherein the display control means displays the application programs customized by the customizing means. However, Hollon teaches customizing means which customizes the number of application programs, and wherein the display control means displays the application programs customized by the customizing means (figs. 2-7; col. 3, lines 6-21). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include Hollon's teaching in the invention of Mondshine in order to provide the users with the spontaneous display which allows the users access to information when the computer in a closed state.

Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollon Jr. ("Hollon", U.S. Pat. No. 5, 768,164), Mondshine et al. ("Mondshine", U.S. Pat. No. 6,252,511) and Hirai et al. ("Hirai", U.S. Pat. No. 6,385,466).

Per claim 29, the modified Hollon teaches a portable information apparatus according to claim 28, but does not teach the display modes include designation of a color of a back light of the sub-display and a command to blink the message. However Hirai teaches the display modes include designation of a color of a back light of the sub-display and a command to blink the message (col. 1, lines 55-65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include Hirai's teaching in the invention of Hollon because it allows the user to instantaneously ascertain information without reading characters or figures which are indicated on the display (col.1, line 66- col.2, line 2).

Claims 32-35, 43-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollon Jr. ("Hollon", U.S. Pat. No. 5, 768,164) and Sonehara et al. ("Sonehara", U.S. Pat. No. 6,633,930)

Per claim 32, Hollon teaches a portable information apparatus comprising:

a main display (fig. 1, display 20);

a sub-display provided independently of the main display and at a position where the sub-display is externally visible when the main display is in a closed position (fig. 2; display 39; col. 1, lines 44-49); and display control means which displays an application program to be started in response to the event generated by a control device on the sub-display in one of a power-off state, a sleeping state, and a main display off state (figs. 2-7; col. 2, line 65 – col. 3, line 5).

Hollon does not specifically teach a jog device which generates a plurality of types of events and display control means which displays a name of an application program to be started in response to the event generated by the jog device on a display. However, Sonehara teaches a jog device which generates a plurality of types of events and display control means which displays a name of an application program to be started in response to the event generated by the jog device on a display (fig. 3 and figs. 17-21). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include Sonehara's teaching in the invention of Hollon in order to provide a convenient user interface that allows the user to select an application by a simple operation using a rotary-type dial.

Per claim 33, Hollon teaches a portable information apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising customizing means which customizes the number of application programs,

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and wherein the display control means displays the application programs customized by the customizing means (figs. 2-7; col. 3, lines 6-21).

Per claim 34, Hollon and Sonehara teach a portable information apparatus according to claim 32, wherein when an application program of the application programs displayed on the sub-display is started by the jog device, the display control means displays information other than the name of the started application program on the sub-display (Hollon: figs. 3-7; col. 3, lines 5-18; Sonehara fig. 21).

Per claim 35, Hollon teaches a portable information apparatus according to claim 32, wherein when the application program started by the jog device has finished, the display control means displays status information on the sub-display (fig. 3-7; col. 2, line 65- col. 3, line 5).

Claims 43-46 are rejected under the same rationale as claims 32-35 respectively.

Claims 36-38, 47, 53, 55 and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollon Jr. ("Hollon", U.S. Pat. No. 5, 768,164), Sonehara et al. ("Sonehara", U.S. Pat. No. 6,633,930), and Mondshine et al. ("Mondshine", U.S. Pat. No. 6,252,511)

Per claim 36, the modified Hollon teaches a portable information apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising display control means (fig. 8, col. 3, lines 34-41).

The Modified Hollon does not teach detection means which detects a system abnormality of the portable information apparatus and displaying a message indicating a system abnormality on the sub-display when the system abnormality is detected by the detection means. However, Mondshine teaches detection means which detects a system abnormality of the portable information apparatus and displaying a message indicating a system abnormality on the sub-



display when the system abnormality is detected by the detection means (figs 1A and 1B; sub-display 54; col. 2, lines 18-30). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include Mondshine's teaching in the invention of the modified Hollon because it provides an improved functionality and ease of use in techniques for the users in displaying the condition of the portable apparatus.

Per claim 37, the modified Hollon teaches a portable information apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising display control means (fig. 8, col. 3, lines 34-41).

the modified Hollon does not teach detection means which detects information to be notified to a user, wherein when the detection means detects information to be notified to a user and displaying a message indicating the detected information on the sub-display. However, Hirai teaches detection means which detects information to be notified to a user, wherein when the detection means detects information to be notified to a user and displaying a message indicating the detected information on the sub-display (figs 1A and 1B; sub-display 54; col. 2, lines 18-30). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include Mondshine's teaching in the invention of the modified Hollon because it provides an improved functionality and ease of use in techniques for the users in displaying the condition of the portable apparatus.

Per claim 38, Hollon teaches a portable information apparatus according to claim 37, further comprising means for restoring a window shown on the sub-display to the window which was shown before the message was displayed, after the message is displayed on the sub-display (figs. 3-7; col. 3, lines 5-18).

Claim 47 is rejected under the same rationale as claim 36.

Per claim 53, Mondshine teaches an information apparatus of claim 50, but does not teach wherein when an application program of the application programs displayed on the sub-display is started by the jog device, the display control means displays information other than the name of the started application program on the sub-display. However, Sonehara teaches an application program is displayed started by the jog device (figs 3 and 21). Hollon teaches the display control means displays information other than the name of the started application program on the sub-display (figs. 3-7). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include Sonehara's teaching and Hollon's teaches in the invention of Mondshine in order to provide a convenient user interface that allows the user to select an application by a simple operation using a rotary-type dial and in order to provide the users with the spontaneous display which allows the users access to information when the computer in a closed state.

Claims 55 and 56 individually are rejected under the same rationale of claim 32.

Claims 27 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollon Jr. ("Hollon", U.S. Pat. No. 5, 768,164), Mondshine et al. ("Mondshine", U.S. Pat. No. 6,252,511), and Pridy (U.S. Pat. No. 6,286,109).

Per claim 27, Hollon and Mondshine teach a portable information apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the detection means detects a low battery state of an application program run by the portable information apparatus (figs 1A and 1B; sub-display 54; col. 2, lines 18-30), but do not teach the detection means detects a low battery state and temperature abnormality of the portable information apparatus. However, Pridy teaches the detection means detects a low

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battery state and temperature abnormality of the portable information apparatus (col. 1, lines 42-65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include Pridy's teaching in the invention of Hollon and Mondshine in order to reduce heat generation in a portable device and provide more computation power to the user.

Claim 40 is rejected under the same rationale as claim 27.

Claims 48-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollon Jr. ("Hollon", U.S. Pat. No. 5, 768,164.), Mondshine et al. ("Mondshine", U.S. Pat. No. 6,252,511), and Nishiyama et al. ("Nishiyama" U.S. Pat. No. 5,710,576).

Per claim 48, Hollon teaches a portable information apparatus comprising: a main display (fig. 1, display 20); a sub-display provided at a position where the sub-display is externally visible when the main display is in a closed position (fig. 2; display 39; col. 1, lines 44-49).

Hollon does not teach a detection means which detects a system abnormality of the portable information apparatus, open/close state detection means which detects an open/close state of the main display, and display control means which displays a message indicating the detected system abnormality on the sub-display when the open/close state detection means detects that the main display is in a closed state, and which displays a message indicating the detected system abnormality on the main display when the open/close state detection means detects that the main display is in an open state, wherein when the message is displayed on the main display, the display control means opens a new window to display the message, and when the message is displayed on the sub-display, the display control means displays the message instead of the information which is already displayed on the sub- display. However, Mondshine

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teaches a detection means which detects a system abnormality of the potable information apparatus and control means which displays a message indicating the detected system abnormality on the sub-display (figs 1A and 1B; sub-display 54; col. 2, lines 18-30). Nishiyama teaches open/close state detection means which detects an open/close state of the main display (col. 1, lines 55-65), and display control means which displays a message indicating the detected system abnormality on the sub-display when the open/close state detection means detects that the main display is in a closed state, and which displays a message indicating the detected system abnormality on the main display when the open/close state detection means detects that the main display is in an open state (col. 2, lines 1-30; col. 4, lines 63-68), wherein when the message is displayed on the main display, the display control means opens a new window to display the message (col. 2, lines 1-30; col. 4, lines 63-68), and when the message is displayed on the sub-display, the display control means displays the message instead of the information which is already displayed on the sub- display (col. 2, lines 1-30; col. 4, lines 63-68). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the teaching of Mondshine and Nishiyama's teaching in the invention of Hollon in order to provide an improved functionality and ease of use in techniques for the users in displaying the condition of the portable apparatus and in order to display information to the users of a portable device according to open/close state of the portable device.

Claim 49 is rejected under the same rationale as claim 48.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to the amendment have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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*Inquiries*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh T. Vu whose telephone number is (571) 272-4073. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur and every other Fri 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

T. Vu

*Kristine Kincaid*  
KRISTINE KINCAID  
SUPERVISOR, PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100